

WAHPETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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October 15, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
12th Street Lobby, TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: PS Docket No. 06-229

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Although I am the Chief of Police in Wahpeton, ND, I write this letter in my role as newly-elected President of the North Dakota Chiefs of Police Association.

In that the members of the North Dakota Chiefs of Police Association are law enforcement professionals, we understand that the ability to communicate effectively and efficiently, particularly during a crisis, is of paramount importance. At our most recent meeting in September, the members of our association voted unanimously to support the concept of developing and operating a wireless broadband network that will allow for a state-of-the-art public safety communications system as well as provide easy access to mobile broadband communications for all citizens of North Dakota.

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the waiver request filed by the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services for early construction of a mobile broadband public safety network in the 700 MHz spectrum band. Access to 4G-like mobile broadband services is a top priority for North Dakota public safety users and the citizens we serve. The State of North Dakota has identified the establishment of a statewide mobile broadband network for public safety use as one of its top broadband priorities and we believe that the Department of Emergency Services can develop a viable 4G-like solution that will allow us to immediately adopt next generation services to enhance emergency response and disaster recovery in our state. Further, we are confident this will be done in a manner consistent with the goal of interoperability with a national public safety network.

The Commission's expeditious approval of the State's waiver request will help to ensure our participation in a national network and deployment of a financially viable network in North Dakota. Awarding the waiver request will allow North Dakota to move forward in deploying an innovative solution that demonstrates a viable and well-needed solution for rural public safety use.

Sincerely,

Chief Scott Thorsteinson
President- North Dakota Chiefs of Police Association
413 3rd Ave N.
Wahpeton, ND 578075